

Photo (missing): State Route 303, looking east



**CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**  
**Thematic Overview and Methodology Guide**

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## INTRODUCTION

The cultural landscape of the Cuyahoga Valley is the accumulated imprint of human occupation on the land over time. Remaining elements of the landscape associated with specific historic themes are interwoven, creating a diverse fabric not only reflecting these themes, but also the interaction between them. Dominant historic themes in the valley include prehistory, settlement, transportation, agriculture, industry and recreation. The progression of these thematic development patterns did not occur chronologically; development trends tended to overlap and even manifest themselves in symbiotic relationships that facilitated transitions. Documentation of this cultural landscape is an interdisciplinary endeavor that evaluates the National Register eligibility and historic significance of individual landscapes within the context of the landscape as a whole.

A cultural landscape is defined as a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources, associated with an historic event, activity, or person. It is the total of the surviving imprint of history on the land, whether it is in the form of a monumental building, a small grave marker, or a row of trees that delineated a farm field. Cultural traditions may be reflected by the way a property is divided and used or in the spatial organization of its features. Systems of circulation that direct movement through a landscape, the siting and type of structures built, and the purposeful planting of trees and shrubs, all define the cultural imprint on the land.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this document is to provide methodologies for evaluating recommended resources that will help: (1) determine National Register eligibility of the park's cultural landscapes based on research, National Register criteria application, and historic significance (determined by associative value and historic integrity), and (2) determine design treatments for identified cultural landscapes based on history, condition, analysis, treatment standards, and proposed use.

Landscape characteristics such as land uses and activities, spatial organizations, response to the natural environment, and cultural traditions will be noted. In addition, evidence in the landscape of circulation networks, boundary demarcations, vegetation related to land use, clusters, archeological sites, and small-scale elements, along with buildings, structures, and objects, will be considered.

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (CVNRA) is located between the urban centers of Cleveland and Akron in northeast Ohio. The 1974 enabling legislation that established CVNRA mandates the preservation of the historic and scenic values of the valley in a manner that will provide for the recreational and education needs of the visiting public. The cultural values of the valley are manifested in the variety of landforms and structures resulting from human interaction with the landscape over time.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Cultural Landscape Inventory" brochure, National Park Service, Cultural Resources Management, Midwest Regional Office.

Figure 1. Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (CVNRA) Site location map

Preservation of these resources is based on their historical significance and integrity, as determined by National Register of Historic Places criteria. A Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) documents and evaluates the character defining features, materials, and qualities that make a landscape eligible for the National Register. Research and historic context development is used to guide the evaluations of these resources.

Previous documentation of the cultural resources in the valley included a 1979 Ohio Historic Inventory survey of all buildings appearing to be more than 50 years old. This survey project led to the preparation of several nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Incidental to this process was the identification of the following historic themes that shaped the valley's development: prehistory, settlement, agriculture, transportation, industry, and recreation.

The List of Classified Structures (LCS) was initiated in 1975 and is defined by Director's Order's #28 as an evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures having archeological, historical, and/or architectural/ engineering significance in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, any legal interest. The LCS includes information on the structures' location, significance, physical appearance, condition, and treatments. This inventory is a dynamic document and has been revised periodically since this time.

The 1987 Cultural Landscape Report was intended "primarily as a management tool rather than a research paper [or] a plan." Although the report asserts to establish objective comparisons of integrity and significance, the research component of the project methodology is restricted to a review of previously documented historic farmsteads. The criteria for assessment of significance included evidence of historic character, uniqueness, the remainder of some integrity of setting, historic continuity, and more than 50 years of age. Tracts were identified as contributing to the cultural landscape, detracting from the cultural landscape or neutral. The State Historic Preservation Office would not accept these designations as National Register evaluations.

Park-wide National Register Multiple Property Documentation Forms were prepared for two of the dominant historic themes in the park: agriculture and recreation. These documents consist of narrative analyses of these themes focusing on associated broad trends, significant people, and specific events. The property description section lists property types historically associated with these themes and provides a framework for determining eligibility based on the National Register criteria and integrity requirements.

In 1994, a Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) was initiated for Cuyahoga Valley NRA. This survey consists of cultural landscapes having historical or cultural significance in which the National Park Service has legal interest. Due to specific development projects, the initial focus of the inventory was driven by Section 106 compliance concerns and National Register documentation needs. Areas documented included the Virginia Kendall Historic District (NRHP 1/97), the Everett Historic District (NRHP 1/94), and the Frazee House (NRHP 5/76).

The updated *Cultural Landscape Report* will be guided by the CLI and organized by the historic themes that resulted in the imprint of human activity on the land. The CLI will provide an existing conditions assessment, which includes documentary evidence for extant or missing historic features. An overview of the historic themes is provided below, along with suggested methodologies for documentation and analysis.

Although some of the historic themes will have study areas that are consistent with the park boundaries, others will be more limited. The 1987 CLR, subsequent research, and the resources will drive delineation of the study areas themselves. Park maps highlighting property tracts associated with the 1987 CLR themes and lists of the property tracts are included in this introductory section. These maps and lists indicate areas that should be revisited for survey and analysis.

Additional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps for areas associated with themes that have been substantively researched since 1987 will also be developed. Sketch maps for themes will be used to identify resource driven boundaries (such as the Valley Railway Historic District) or to highlight a larger development pattern that affected the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

## **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND CONTEXTS**

### **PREHISTORIC AND INDIGENOUS CULTURES**

The geology of the Cuyahoga Valley and surrounding areas helped establish this north-south water resource as an important prehistoric inland trading route. Subsequently, several Native American civilizations left their cultural imprints on the valley's river, lake, and glacial terraces. In addition to the distinct topographic features created by these cultures, such as burial mounds, specific topographic features were occupied and utilized by different societies throughout prehistory.

The Wisconsin Glacier receded from northeast Ohio, leaving the Cuyahoga Valley ice-free by 14,600 BP (before present, with present defined as AD 1950).<sup>2</sup> Conifer forests characterized the post-glacial northern Ohio landscape with slow-moving rivers flowing into higher elevation lakes.<sup>3</sup> Lake Maumee at 760 feet and Lake Whittlesey at 738 feet (above mean sea level) are pre-Lake Erie stages that cut ledge features and deposited lacustrine materials in their beds and along their shorelines.

These pre-Lake Erie lakes formed important landforms now present in the Cuyahoga Valley, including the ledges and several high, flat benches. The ledges all represent former wave cut shorelines of these lakes.

Between 8,000-5,000 BP, during the early Archaic period, the post-glacial/ pre-recent terraces

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<sup>2</sup> Jeffrey Richner, letter to author, 21 October 1996.

<sup>3</sup> David S. Brose, *Archaeological Investigations in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area* (Cleveland, Ohio: Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1981) 107.

formed. These benches were built up from river deposition of silt, sand, or gravel depending on the speed and dynamic of the water. Landforms resulting from this period include a large bench along the east side of the river south of Peninsula. From the early Archaic period on, this landform was heavily used, as it is raised above the modern floodplain, is well drained, flat, near water, and tillable. Most of the valley's prehistoric sites are also located on this or higher, (and therefore earlier), terraces.

In the late Archaic period the Glacial Kame subculture emerged.<sup>4</sup> This group was distinguished by the practice of burying their dead in the kames or hills of gravel deposited by the glacier. Throughout the Archaic and the following Woodland periods, terrace edges were favored site locations. Terrace edges are defined as any flat lacustrine or riverine bench, higher in elevation than the modern floodplain.<sup>5</sup>

The Late Archaic cultures are credited with the earliest domestication of plants. These cultures maintained seasonal campsites on the upland bluffs overlooking the Cuyahoga Valley. Seasonal multi-family sites are known to have been located at the junctions of secondary streams and broad areas of the river floodplain. Smaller, campsites have been identified in the southern Cuyahoga County upland areas. These sites were more temporal, used for special hunting or trading purposes.<sup>6</sup>

From 800 BC to AD 100 the Ohio Early Woodland cultures developed new landforms associated with their mortuary practices. The Ohio River Valley Adena cultural expressions, characterized by circular earthworks and burial mounds of varying size, are associated with Early Woodland Culture.

The Adena is also credited for the Woodland Culture transition from a hunter-gatherer existence to a society that participated in limited farming. Farming practices of the Adena included clearing fields by tree girdling and burning.<sup>7</sup> By approximately 300 BC, the Hopewell Indians developed into a second and distinct Mound-Builder cultural group. The Hopewell cultural group expanded the limited farming practices of the Adena people. Although there is no evidence of the Adena and Hopewell cultures occupying the Cuyahoga Valley, there may have been other cultural groups here that evidenced Adena or Hopewell characteristics.

Figure 2: Archeological Dig, Sagamore Hills, Site 1100 AD

The Whittlesey focus people inhabited northern Ohio around the millennium. This culture is believed to have disappeared around 1,500. Although previous speculation suggested that the Iroquois eradicated the Whittlesey group, it is now believed that the Whittlesey people and the Iroquois Nation tribes had no contact with each other.

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<sup>4</sup> Virginia Chase Bloetscher *Indians of the Cuyahoga Valley and Vicinity* (Akron, Ohio: The North American Indian Cultural Center, Inc., 1980), 5.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Brose, *Archaeological Investigations in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area*, 132.

<sup>7</sup> Brose, 133.

Whittlesey Tradition sites included compact villages built with palisade walls and associated ditches that intermittently lined the edge of the valley walls, especially on promontory points at the end of an isthmus or peninsula surrounded by ravines. Typically, Native Americans used nearly inaccessible sites for their fortifications, relying more on the topography than the structure for protection.

As European settlers increasingly drove Native Americans from their homelands in eastern North America, many refugees settled in the Midwest. The Cuyahoga Valley did not become a place of permanent settlement for one nation, as did locations along the Ohio Valley. This was largely due to the reputation of the Iroquois League, and the proximity of the Seneca, the largest and most warlike nation in the league.<sup>8</sup> The villages that did locate within the valley did so because of its importance as a transportation route.

Two significance trails entered the Cuyahoga Valley: the Mahoning Trail and a branch of the Great Scioto War Trail. The Cuyahoga/ Tuscarawas route was probably the preferred north-south waterway between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes since it was the shortest portage.

### Methodology and Study Area

Previous archeological investigations need to be put in chronological order to identify holes in the existing data. A map identifying the Ohio Archeological Inventory sites in the valley is based on 1980 survey information.

### Figure 3. Prehistoric Sites in Cuyahoga Valley and Environs

More recently, the Midwest Archeological Center has compiled a database listing all the archeological sites that have been identified in the Cuyahoga Valley. This information will be used to assess the landforms associated with these sites.

In addition, predictive modeling should be used to identify landforms that likely were sites of encampments or trading posts, given the need for upland plateaus to provide protection or fortification. For example, hogbacks on the upland plateaus surrounded by steep ravines were favorite locations for camps during the Late Woodland period. These camps often took the form of fortified villages. The Soldat site is an example of this resource type.

Riverine and lacustrine terraces are present in the Cuyahoga Valley at several elevations. When such features approach the river or flank other drainage, the likelihood that prehistoric people used these sites is increased. An extensive terrace area along the eastern bank of the Cuyahoga River from Peninsula to the Point Farmstead (south of Bolanz Road) represents such a resource. Higher terraces, or old lake formations, would be reflected by landforms such as the Hines Hill Conference Center landform, or the Botzum farm landform. Topographical maps of the valley will be analyzed to identify the locations of these distinct landforms.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 30.

Figure 4. Cross-section schematic of lacustrine and riverine terraces, Cuyahoga Valley

When discussing the occupation of a site by a particular culture, it is important to remember that an attractive site could have been used by many cultures at different times throughout prehistory. Use patterns indicated at such a site could reflect fleeting, temporary, or permanent occupations. In general, the rolling uplands were used sporadically for hunting and other short-term extracting camps, while the terraces and other benches in the Valley were more intensively used for a wide range of activities. The study area for this context will include the entire recreation area.

Figure 5. Contributing Property Tracts CVNRA, Theme: Prehistoric

## SETTLEMENT

One history of northeast Ohio describes the Western Reserve of Connecticut as the largest and most distinctly individualized and most influential of all the varied elements in this composite population, and resultant from the sole energy of the people of a single state.<sup>9</sup> In 1786, Connecticut ceded the land south of Lake Erie and north of the 41st parallel to the United States, and the Connecticut Western Reserve was formed.

Figure 6. Western Reserve and Firelands Maps, c. 1839

Although New England cultural traditions heavily influenced settlement in northeast Ohio, it is misleading to think of the Cuyahoga Valley as exclusively a “Connecticut, West”. Settlers came from all over the eastern seaboard, as well as Europe. Ohio gained statehood in 1803 and became the first Trans-Appalachian state to offer enormous acreage of excellent agricultural land and work opportunities.<sup>10</sup> The settlement landscape of the Cuyahoga Valley reflects national trends in westward migration, European immigration, as well as regional and national trends in surveying developing rural communities.

Figure 7 “LAND FOR SALE”

The U.S. Census of 1850, which lists nativity of the population, shows that more valley residents emigrated from New York than New England proper. English and Irish born residents dominate the foreign-born classification for the 1850 valley population.

Figure 8. Northeast States: Percentage of all Migrants, 1850

The “Trek of 1817” brought a wave of settlers to Northeast Ohio. Conditions in northeastern states had become increasingly harsh. The War of 1812 left a legacy of destruction in coastal New England, forcing many traders into bankruptcy. Severe frosts during the summer of 1816 followed

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<sup>9</sup> Alfred Matthews, *Ohio and Her Western Reserve* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1902), viii.

<sup>10</sup> Herbert G.H. Wilhelm, *To Build in a New Land: Ethnic Landscapes in North America*, ed. Allen G. Noble (Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1992), 60.

by an exceptionally bitter winter destroyed many farmers and brought on famine in the area.<sup>11</sup>

The Irish wave of immigration to the Cuyahoga Valley was a result of canal construction. After the Napoleonic Wars peace settlements of 1815, Irish emigration intensified. Before the potato famine of 1846, more than a million Irish resettled in a foreign country. Many Irish immigrants who landed in New York City were recruited to work on New York State's Erie Canal, completed in 1825.<sup>12</sup>

Upon completion of the Erie Canal, many of these Irish workers came to northeast Ohio to work and made up the bulk of the labor force on the northern segment of the Ohio & Erie Canal. The census of 1850 reports that a substantial portion of the valley's population was born in Ireland. In fact, the census lists 22.4% of the state's immigrants as coming from Ireland.

German immigrants representing 48.1% of Ohio's immigrants made up the state's largest ethnic settlement group.<sup>13</sup> Many of these early nineteenth-century German immigrants settled for a time in Pennsylvania before following the lure of cheap land to Ohio.<sup>14</sup> They came with others of their kin and settled in and around Stark and Tuscarawas counties.

Southern Summit County Townships had a high concentration of German-born residents in 1850. Distribution of the German population in Ohio, 1850, shows that less than 50% of the total population in the Cuyahoga County and Summit County areas were of German ancestry, which for Ohio, does not represent a substantial concentration of German settlement.

Another immigrant group that settled in the valley was the Polish. Arriving in America in the late 19th century, many Polish immigrants settled in the rapidly industrializing cities of the Great Lakes. The large paper mills that opened on the banks of the Cuyahoga River --the Akron-Cleveland Bag Company in Boston and the Jaite Paper Mill in Brecksville-- provided jobs that attracted Polish workers from Cleveland. Census records show a dramatic shift in the population of Boston between 1900 and 1910--the resident names indicating a sizeable infusion of Polish descendants.

The Irish, German, and Polish immigrant cultures did not impact the valley's cultural landscape as much as the New England extended culture of the New York state settlers. This is largely due to the fact that by the 1820s northeast Ohio had received their initial settlement impact and the newly arrived foreign immigrants wanted to assimilate, not stand out.<sup>15</sup> Nonetheless, whether the cultural impact is a Celtic cross and Son of Erie insignia on a gravestone, a cantilevered German bank barn, or a New England Upright and Wing House, each settlement group contributed to the richness of the landscape fabric.

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<sup>11</sup> Dr. Nick Scrattish, *Historic Resource Study: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio* (Denver: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1985) p.95.

<sup>12</sup> National Geographic Society *Historical Atlas of the United States* (Washington D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1988), 189.

<sup>13</sup> Wilhelm, *To Build a New Land*, 61. These statistics exclude the metropolitan areas of Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, and Columbus.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Wilhelm, *To Build in a New Land*, 66.

Surveying the Western Reserve also left a definitive mark on the land. Because Ohio was the first state created in the Northwest Territory--the first large public land holding--Ohio became a testing ground for much experimentation in surveying, land grants, and minor civil subdivisions.

Figure 9. Map of Ohio, 1812, Survey Districts and Boundaries

The Western Reserve began at the western border of Pennsylvania and extended westward for 120 miles. The Connecticut Land Company had instructed the surveyors to run the boundary line as far west as the Cuyahoga River and to lay out the land into townships five miles square.

The system employed by Edward Tiffin, Surveyor General of the United States from 1819 to 1821, delineated 6 mile square townships. This system was adopted by the federal government and used to survey the remaining vast public domain that would realize the nation's quest toward its "Manifest Destiny" goal. Whether five or six miles, the township demarcation is a New England land division technique. The size is small enough to be traveled by wagon within several hours and large enough to require civil administration.<sup>16</sup>

One noteworthy land division is seen in the parcel divisions of Brecksville Township. The surveyed townships were originally sold off in 640-acre segments, according to the 1785 ordinance, and later by 40-acre lots. The lots along the eastern border of Brecksville Township along the Cuyahoga River seem to reference the French long lot method. Emphasis seems to be on providing as much river access as possible to landowners in the township. It is curious that no other township in the valley evidences this long lot land division.

Settlement types found in the valley include isolated farms, crossroad hamlets, and canal towns, which later became railroad towns. A distinction of the American rural landscape, the isolated farm, stressed independence and self-reliance, as opposed to Europe's communal land divisions based cooperative arrangements.

Although self-reliant, farmers still needed basic services provided by the valley's small hamlets. Typically consisting of a church, school, grocery with post office, and a blacksmith, the relative density of these communities in the Cuyahoga Valley is a testament to the agricultural prosperity of the area.<sup>17</sup>

The early development of towns was impacted by the Ohio & Erie Canal and the later Valley

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<sup>16</sup> National Geographic, *Historical Atlas of the United States*, 98.

<sup>17</sup> Christaller=s central place theory model predicts a mean distance between hamlets to be 5.8 miles. John Brush=s application of Christaller=s model to rural southwest Wisconsin determined the distance to be 5.5 miles. The 1993 *Everett Historic District Cultural Landscape Report* found the mean distance between hamlets or higher order settlements, (based on 19th century county atlas maps), within the five township Cuyahoga Valley study area to be 1.842 miles.

Railway. Although both the canal and railway grew the existing settlements, towns in the valley were not specifically platted because the arrival of these transportation modes. Canals created an elongation of existing street patterns. The train tracks, which ran roughly parallel to the canal prism, resulted in the broadening of the small towns or hamlets, rather than creating a marked reorientation.

### Methodology and Study Area

The cultural landscapes of settlement patterns consist of a wide variety of elements. How the land was surveyed determined the patterns on the land created by settlement--the location of towns and the arrangement of fields. Ethnic associations of settlement groups may have a very pronounced impact on the landscape (the New England farmstead plan), or be referenced by a small object such as a gravestone. The small cemeteries throughout the valley need to be surveyed to better understand ethnic groups associated with settlement patterns.

The study area for the settlement cultural landscape would be defined by the park boundaries, given the comprehensive nature of the historic theme. Researching the survey notes at the Western Reserve Historical Society Archives, along with letters from land agents to the Connecticut Land Company owners, would reveal much information about early patterns of settlement and development. Physical landscape elements used to identify survey lines should be noted. The potential for any of these identifiers to still exist in the landscape should be assessed (i.e., a rock outcropping versus a stand of trees) and an attempt should be made to locate these elements.

All survey and early township maps of the recreation area townships need to be gathered. This would include early tax maps of the communities and townships. The delineation of the parcels should be compared to delineating treelines evident in 1938 aerial photographs and 1992 aerial photographs. Stands of trees that correspond to historic property boundaries should be noted for their strong association with early surveys and settlement patterns.

Ethnic associations and settlement patterns could be correlated using census records and historic atlas maps. The 1850 census lists place of origin for the township residents. By finding these names on atlas maps, pockets of ethnic settlements can be determined. Additionally, surveying cemeteries in the valley, (particularly those near any pockets of ethnic settlement) could reinforce the identification of ethnic settlement pockets.

Cemeteries provide additional information about the settlement of the area and should be regarded as an historic archive. Grave markers and burial stone often represent the first sculpture in a settlement area. They also serve as records of the birth-death cycle of a community. Plantings in these often-enclosed landscapes may survive for many years and serve as living relics of previous gardening practices. Surveys of cemeteries should include the information on the stones, the type of stones or marker, and vintage cultivars.

Figure 10. Boston Cemetery Elizabeth Mills, died 1817

An additional aspect of understanding settlement patterns involves understanding the distribution of

settlements in the valley. Analyzing the distance between settlements of various size, (farmsteads, hamlets, village, towns, etc . . .) during different transportation related periods (pre-canal, canal, railroad, good roads movement) will help determine the circulation of goods and services and the extent to which communities were isolated and self-sufficient.

Figure 11. Contributing Property Tracts CVNRA. Theme: Settlement

### TRANSPORTATION: Roads, Canals, Railroads

The first transportation routes established in the valley were foot trails. The Native Americans established trail networks previously mentioned, and the early European settlers established trails that linked the early communities. One noteworthy trail in the valley is the David Hudson trail, which is the trek David Hudson and his party made from the Cuyahoga River at Boston Mills, through the wilderness, to the southwest corner of the township. This trek is credited with the founding of the town of Hudson and opening up of the land for settlement. Trails such as these often became the first roads in the valley.

Building and repairing roads in early Ohio was largely the responsibility of supervisors appointed by township trustees.<sup>18</sup> According to the Act of 1809, every able-bodied man of twenty-one years or more had to give two days a year to work on public roads in his community. Some of the Cuyahoga Valley's roads were established as early as 1811, such as Riverview and Everett roads. It should be noted that "establishment" in this context refers to a local judge designating the route as a public right of way.

After the construction and completion of the Ohio & Erie Canal (1825-27) between Cleveland and Akron, road building in the valley began in earnest.<sup>19</sup> Better access to the canal was needed for the transport and import of goods. The roads that were built provided this access to the settlers, but were not intended for the squatters.<sup>20</sup> Early roads in the Reserve were characterized by ankle-deep mud or choking clouds of dust -- and where there wasn't a stump there was a hole.

Figure 12. Riverview Road and Tinkers Creek, 1902.

Regional road networks in northeast Ohio did not greatly impact the valley, due to its north-south orientation. From 1816 onward, major road building movements in the region were designed to connect Cleveland with Buffalo to the northeast, with Pittsburgh to the southeast and with Columbus to the southwest. The valley did not accommodate east-west roads without expensive bridges over the river and numerous tributaries or switchbacks to accommodate the steep grades.<sup>21</sup>

Figure. 13 Summit County Townships in CVNRA: Boundaries and Roads, 1891

<sup>18</sup> William T. Utter, *The Frontier State: 1803-1825* (Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society, 1942), 206.

<sup>19</sup> Scrattish, *Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Resource Study*, 106. Taken from Brose AProposal to the Midwest Archaeological Center.≡

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 141

<sup>21</sup> Scrattish, *Historic Resource Study*, 175.

## CANALS

Canals were a major aspect of America's 19th century transportation revolution. The regional canals built in the early 19th century developed into an interconnected national network of waterways. Canals of the northeast and Midwest states linked the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. Some sources suggest that the total canal mileage in Ohio exceeded that of any other state.

Figure. 14 Canals of Ohio 1825-1913

These inland waterways transported grain and coal to eastern ports and finished goods and settlers to the developing northwest territories. By the 1850s, the canals were declining and east-west transport and related economic development resulted from railroad expansion.

Ground was broken for the Ohio & Erie Canal on July 4, 1825. Exactly two years later the first section of the canal, between Cleveland and Akron, was opened to traffic. By 1832, the 309 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal linked Lake Erie with the Ohio River and became a major catalyst for Ohio's economic growth. The canal opened the resource rich hinterlands of the young state and greatly spurred settlement and development in the area. Between 1825 and 1847, the State of Ohio constructed 813 miles of canals.

Figure 15. TBD  
INSERT CANAL PHOTO

Although sections of the canal are no longer watered, the prism is a major landscape feature in many parts of the valley. It serves as a tangible reminder of a former watered transportation route that spurred much of the valley's initial growth. The impact of the canal on the landscape was considerable, starting with the clearing and grubbing before excavation. Construction specifications for the canal prism called for a width of at least 26' at the bottom and 40' at the top water line.<sup>22</sup> The width of the tow path bank was to be at least ten feet and the opposite bank not less than six feet.<sup>23</sup> In addition to digging the prism, substantial areas on both sides of the canal were cleared.

The prism measurements, along with the 15' of cleared area referenced above, created an 86' swath of impact to the landscape. Additional canal-related cultural landscape elements include the slips, wasteways, millraces, aqueducts, and the buildings and townscapes that serviced this significant route.

## RAILROADS

In order to supply the growing industries of Cleveland with coal from south of Canton and West

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 17.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 18.

Virginia, the Valley Railway was chartered in 1871.<sup>24</sup> The right-of-way was surveyed in 1872 and the Cuyahoga Valley provided a route with easy grades and wide curves. Construction of the rail line began in 1878 and operations started between Cleveland and Canton in 1880. In 1882 the line was extended to Wheeling, West Virginia. In 1890 the Baltimore & Ohio acquired a controlling interest in the railroad to gain access to Cleveland.

Figure 16. Boston, Ohio c.1910  
INSERT RAILROAD PHOTO

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Valley Railway notes the high degree to which the railway retains its historic integrity: Unlike other railroads, the line was never double-tracked for expanded traffic, and the right-of-way remained virtually unaltered. The right-of-way through the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and into Akron is still maintained and used by the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Future plans include expansion south to Canton and north to Cleveland's Terminal Tower.

Figure 17. Valley Railway National Register Historic District, Cuyahoga and Summit counties

Along with the tracks and the 60' cleared right-of-way, the railroad brought additional elements to the landscape. Several combination station structures (passenger/ freight depots), small freight houses, bridges, and culverts also left their mark on the landscape of the valley.

The *Guide Book for Tourists and Travelers over the Valley Railway from Cleveland to Canton, 1880* promotes itself as "Containing a Complete Description of the Scenery and Objects of Interest Along the Road". The methodology outlined in the guide book's preface states "In order to have everything correct and complete, it was necessary to travel the entire length of the line on foot, which was done by the compiler during the month of June, when the thermometer averaged 90 degrees in the shade". The descriptions of the valley in the book illuminate the landscape of the time:

We come out of the woods and meet the river again and follow its winding course through the beautiful valley for four miles, passing through cool and shady groves, and then occasionally coming out upon the great open flats where almost as far as you can see is covered with flourishing farms, and in the distance the hills rise along the border . . .<sup>25</sup>

These descriptions provided by this reference will be invaluable for determining the historic integrity of the landscape that consists of and surrounds the rail line right-of-way today.

### Methodology and Study Area

<sup>24</sup> Eric Johannesen, *The Valley Railway*, National Register nomination, 1984.

<sup>25</sup> John S. Reese, compiler and publisher *Guide Book for the Tourist and Traveler over the Valley Railway!* (Canton, Ohio: John S. Reese, 1880), 10.

The impact of transportation development on the landscape of the Cuyahoga Valley is complex. It is necessary to look at how different modes of transportation interrelate to each other and the larger themes of historic development in the valley--such as agriculture, settlement, industry, etc. Understanding the transportation network of the Cuyahoga Valley involves not only referencing old maps for road, canal, and track placement, but also understanding the nodes of commerce or settlement that roadways, the railway, and the canal generated and connected.

A more simplistic approach -- such as analyzing the canal transportation cultural landscape by only looking at the surrounding vegetation, prism and towpath -- would remove the canal from its developmental context and provide a limited version of the valley's history. The network of roads pre-canal and post-canal should also be assessed to determine the impact canal transportation had on road transportation. Similarly, the impact of the railway on the road system in 1880 should be documented. This means the study area for this context may extend beyond the recreation area boundaries as the interrelations of transportation routes and nodes must be noted.

Within some transportation nodes, the hierarchy of function must be considered. For example, a stagecoach route is very different from an internal street of a small village or a farmer's access road. Accordingly, these different roads have different physical impacts on the landscape. Stagecoach routes were significant aspects of the settlement landscape and often directly influenced the location of commercial establishments. The routes need to be researched, documented and assessed for historic integrity. Internal street systems depicted on historic maps may have never materialized on the ground, but merely exist as the paper manifestations of a land speculator's ambitions. Farmers' access roads may provide information about field and farmstead arrangement. They provide some clues into the circulation pattern and working operations of a farm.

For early roads, the county engineer's office can provide dates of road construction. Maps made for tax assessment can also help identify early road networks, as well as postal surveys. The 1856 and 1874 Summit County Atlas townships, and the 1874 Cuyahoga County townships located within the recreation area have been digitized for a GIS project. These digitized maps show the road networks of the time. The Summit County maps need to be overlaid to show changes that occurred between 1856 and 1874. All of these maps can be overlaid with existing park maps to show the historic integrity of the road network and better understand the circulation patterns that drove the economy in the 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The vegetation as well as the routes often evidences the impact of historic roadways on the cultural landscape. Roads depicted in historic maps but not evident today may manifest themselves in the vegetation. Aerial photographs should be analyzed to determine if rows of trees line up with missing roads.

The cultural landscapes attributed to the Ohio & Erie Canal and the Valley Railway contributes greatly to the historic significance of these resources. The undeveloped nature of the valley creates a sense of the canal-era landscape, which is somewhat rare along other segments of the 308 miles of the canal, given their unprotected nature. Segments of this linear resource that anchor physical elements of a particular era -- such as the packet boat era -- should be noted analyzed and

documented. An example of this would be the Frazee House, and associated fields, separated by the canal and 1831 Canal Road. In fact, there is a significant concentration of packet-boat era landscape features along this watered, National Historic Landmark segment of the canal. Features that comprise and convey the historic integrity of this large-scale land use pattern need to be analyzed and managed in a more holistic manner; the interrelationships of the houses, farms, stores, fields, and roads, etc. gives the historic landscape its integrity.

The numerous historic photographs of the canal need to be looked at to determine what the landscape was like along the canal route. The vegetation, towpath and foot trails, slips, locks and spillway surroundings need to be noted and typologies need to be developed for these features.

Landscape features along the canal today may also compromise the historic integrity of the resource. Vegetation that invades the canal lock and spillway structures needs to be assessed for impact on the stability of these structures. Trees that line the un-watered prism should also be considered for their impact on the maintenance of the canal prism profile.

The Valley Railway also had a profound impact on the cultural landscape of the valley. As with the canal, the integrity of the landscape surrounding the railroad track contributes to its significance. For example, the yards that surrounded the small combination stations in Everett, Boston, Ira/Hawkins, and Peninsula most likely had features distinct to their uses.

Beyond the landscape of the railroad yards, the vegetation and viewsheds along the track line is significant. The National Register nomination for the Valley Railway justifies the boundary for the district by stating that, unlike many other rail lines from this era, the Valley Railway is surrounded by a landscape similar to what existed during its period of significance. The *Guide Book for Tourist and Travelers over the Valley Railway from Cleveland to Canton, 1880* needs to be closely consulted to determine the integrity of the surrounding landscape and viewsheds that contributed to the railway as a tourist attraction in the Victorian era.

Figure 18. Contributing Property Tracts CVNRA, Theme: Transportation

## AGRICULTURE

The valley walls that define Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area are covered with secondary growth woodlands. Nineteenth century photographs and drawings of the area depict a much different landscape -- a landscape of planted farm crops and cleared upland pastures. The history of farming in the valley began with the small-scale cultivation of crops in 700 AD and continued through to the small market farming of the early 20th century. The 19th century can be regarded as the golden age of agriculture in the valley, including the subsistence farming of pre-canal days, the market agriculture that followed, the Scientific Farming era of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Figure 19. "Haying in the Valley"

The remaining farmsteads in the valley typically represent more than one phase of agricultural

development. Farming practices were changed by market forces, which were greatly impacted by technological developments, demographic changes, and transportation improvements. As dynamic built environments, farmsteads often responded to these forces by changing existing barns or outbuildings, altering field sizes and arrangements, or by adding new structures. It is highly unlikely that a farmstead will be made up of elements only associated with one particular phase of agricultural development. It is also important to remember that traditional agricultural practices often continued well into periods of agricultural progressivism.

A farmhouse's proximity to farm buildings and fields communicates one of the most dominant characteristics of American farmsteads: an isolated or semi-isolated setting that communicates a sense of self-sufficiency. Barn types are a direct reflection of agricultural practices that occurred in the Valley. English Barns are associated with pioneer farm methods that settlers brought with them from New England. This barn type, like the pioneer farming methods, can be traced back to the Old World. The transition from English to Raised Bank Barns coincided with the advent of the canal and market agriculture. As farmers began to raise cattle, instead of swine, they needed a place to house livestock. The lower, or bank level, of the new barn provided this needed space.

As the industrial boom of Cleveland and Akron lured farmers to the city, agriculture in the valley became more truck farm oriented. Fruit stands, gentlemen's farms and gravel mining began to characterize the farms of the Cuyahoga Valley. Competition with the large and productive farms in western Ohio, created by draining the Black Swamp, also contributed to the demise of agriculture in the valley. By the 1930s, the Cuyahoga Valley was experiencing a shift from agriculture to recreational land uses.

The well-drained uplands were the most extensively farmed areas in the Valley. Much of the valley walls were cleared for pasturelands. Historic photographs indicate that only the steepest areas remained wooded. Conditions such as heavy clay soils, perched water tables and soil erosion contributed to the abandonment of these farmlands. Later conservation farming remedied some of the effects of this intensive land use. Other abandoned farmland converted back to woodlands, recalling the landscape encountered by early settlers.

The small open field pockets that remain in tillage help to convey the sense of unfolding open space associated with the period of agricultural development and prosperity in Cuyahoga Valley. Together with the farmsteads, (comprised of house, barn, and outbuildings), this development pattern represents one of the defining characteristics of the Cuyahoga Valley landscape.

The most comprehensive and detailed information available on Cuyahoga Valley's 19th century farms is found in the United States Census Productions of Agriculture records. These primary source documents provide detailed information ranging from the number of improved acres per farm to the number of eggs produced. Unfortunately, it is not a complete data set. The census for the Summit County townships is limited to the years 1850 and 1870, and Cuyahoga County only has these production records for 1880.

The available agricultural census records for 1850 show that 745 farms covered more than 45,685

acres of improved land within the five townships comprising approximately 115,200 acres of the northwest portion of Summit County. These five townships are Bath, Boston, Northampton, Northfield and Richfield. The data for Summit County indicates that Northfield Township, with 168 farmsteads, had the most entries in the 1850 Agricultural Census, with Northampton Township, at 167 farms, falling immediately behind. Richfield's 131 farmsteads, however, accounted for the most acres of improved land, (11,599), an average of nearly 88 acres per farm. This figure is substantially higher than Boston Township's average of 61.3 acres per farm and nearly doubles the 46.9 acres per entry associated with Northampton.

The 1870 Agricultural Census Records for Bath, Boston, Northampton, Northfield and Richfield townships indicate that the 607 farms listed occupied 52,510 acres of improved land. This represents approximately 46% of the total land area. Another 18,608 acres are listed as unimproved, although owned by farmers. Richfield farms boast the highest average of the five townships with 117 average number of acres of improved land per farm accompanied by an average of 35 acres of owned but unimproved lands per farm. This unimproved land accounts for 33% of the farmland within the township. Of the unimproved land held by farmers, more than 96%, or 17,876 acres, are classified as woodland or forest.

Available 1880 Productions of Agriculture records for the park area are limited to three townships in Cuyahoga County. The records list a total of 587 farms with 37,560 acres in improved land and 10,219 in unimproved land. Independence Township had the most entries with 220 farms although Brecksville had the largest amount of acreage in improved lands. The average farm in Bedford and Brecksville Townships had approximately 73 improved acres. Independence Township's average farm had only 48.7 acres of improved land showing the highest average ratio of improved to unimproved acreage. Somewhat perplexing is the fact that the average farm in Bedford Township shows twice as much acreage classified as "Permanent meadows, permanent pastures, orchards, vineyards" than "Tilled, including fallow and grass in rotation (whether pasture or meadow)" although the value of orchard products for Bedford is low and no acres are listed as vineyard.

The twentieth century began the beginning of the end for agricultural dominance of the valley. The industrial boom experienced by Cleveland and Akron lured farmers into the city in search of higher wages. Moreover, developments in agriculture in other parts of the state and country made farming far more profitable elsewhere. In the early 20th century, the economics of farming was changing. New federal transportation policies made large scale, specialized western farms more profitable. On a statewide level, agricultural production in the northwestern part of Ohio was exceeding other parts of the state. Many farms in the valley became weekend retreats as recreation became the dominant land use.

### Methodology and Study Area

When analyzing the culturally significant agricultural areas in the park, the entire farm landscape must be taken into consideration. The amount of information compiled through the *Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area*, National Register Multiple Property Documentation form, and the *NPS Special History Study: U.S. Production of Agriculture Records*

provides the potential for in-depth analysis. Individual landscape elements will be determined for the National Register listed farmsteads through the Cultural Landscape Inventory process.

The production statistics will be compared to specific farmstead design, and defining landscape characteristics, as outlined in *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*. Areas with consistently higher yields and larger ratios of improved to unimproved lands need to be studied to determine landscape characteristics that define these significant farm types.

Some farms now consist only of fields, with no extant associated structures. Even though these farmsteads may have no integrity as individual properties, retention of these remnant fields contribute to the large agricultural landscape district. Assessing these fields involves understanding the relationship between their past productivity, landscape elements, and historic integrity. Previous research of the U.S. Census Productions of Agriculture records has identified the farmers that produced above township average yields of the three major crop types: wheat, Indian corn, and oats.

Figure 20. CVNRA Property tracts with above average principal crop production, 1850

Figure 21. CVNRA Property tracts with above average principal crop production, 1870

The parcels identified with these farmer's names will be mapped using GIS. These maps will be overlaid with the fields identified in the 1987 *CLR* to determine which fields were, in fact, significant in terms of historic agricultural production. A Cultural Landscape Inventory will be done of these fields. Their historic integrity will be assessed to determine if they retain sufficient landscape elements needed to communicate their historic association.

Figure 22. Contributing property tracts CVNRA, Theme: Agriculture

## INDUSTRY

The development of industry in the Cuyahoga Valley began with agriculture and was fed by waterpower provided by the canal and river. Distilleries and then gristmills converted the raw resources of farming into finished market goods. The strong dairying emphasis of the valley's post-civil war farming operations resulted in a strong cheese making industry. Milling became a trademark of the valley's economy, producing not only grain, but also lumber and woolen goods. Place names such as Boston Mills testify to this heritage.<sup>26</sup>

Other canal-influenced industries were stone quarrying and boat building. With lock construction producing a market for the stone block, quarrying operations, notably in Peninsula and

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<sup>26</sup> All the existing U.S. Census Products of Industry for the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area townships are in park files. These records provide a fairly comprehensive listing of the industries in the 19th century valley, including capital investment, raw materials used, motive power, number and genders of employees, and annual production. Any thorough analysis of historic industry in the valley would include a tabulation and analysis of these records.

Independence, took advantage of the area's outcropping of Berea Sandstone. Boat building operations concentrated in the areas of Peninsula and Boston.

Late 19th and early 20th century industry in the valley reflects the trend of relocating industry out of the dense cities to areas with land to expand and transportation links to larger markets. The resulting large paper mills and Hydraulic Press Brick plant brought a larger scale of construction to the valley and a new type of settlement: the company town.

Distilleries came into existence almost as soon as the first settlers arrived in the Ohio territory. In 1810 Whiskey sold at \$.75 a gallon and each bushel of corn produced three gallons, (11 bushels were needed to make a barrel). In 1830 and 1831, the amount of whiskey that arrived in Cleveland by canal was between 2,000 and 2,500 barrels. The importance of distilleries to the local agricultural economy can be seen by comparing the return-on-investment for whiskey versus corn meal. In 1850, one bushel of corn, valued at 50 cents, could be turned into 55 cents worth of corn meal or 94 cents worth of whiskey.<sup>27</sup>

Figure 23. Moody Thomas Mill and Loading Dock, Peninsula, Ohio

Water-powered mills played a vital role in the development of the local agricultural economy in every settlement. Farming, even in its earliest stages, was dependent upon market forces. Far from being self-sufficient, a farmer depended upon gristmills to process raw materials cultivated on his farm. Mill owners were paid cash or received a percentage of the processed grain in return for the rendered service. Local water-powered saw mills played an important part in the building of communities; like much of the Upper Midwest during the initial European settlement period, the Cuyahoga Valley was covered by forests.

Coopering was another dominant industry in the valley, although the operations were small scale. Using hoops and lumber, coopers made flour barrels. Other frequently mentioned industrial operations include blacksmith, cabinetmaker, brick maker, harness maker, shoemaker, broom maker, tailor and tanner.

An important canal related industry in the valley was boat building. At the height of Ohio's canal era, between 1825 and 1875, Boston and Peninsula were centers for the boat building industry. In 1863 these four yards constructed thirty-nine boats. Akron, along with these two communities, built hundreds of the boats used on the Ohio & Erie Canal.

The predominate extractive industry in the valley was stone quarrying. At one time the four stone quarries in Peninsula employed 200 men.<sup>28</sup> Quarrying was regarded as the chief industry in the town. In addition to the stone blocks, quarries produced high quality grindstones. The large stepped ledges of Deep Lock Quarry, located along Riverview Road in Peninsula, testify to the importance

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<sup>27</sup> These values are based on production figures taken from the U.S. Census, Summit County Industrial Schedule mill listings for 1850.

<sup>28</sup> Scrattish, *Ohio & Erie Canal*, 185.

of this industry in the valley. Another important extractive industry was oil and gas drilling. An oral history interview recalls 20-30 oil and gas wells along Canal Road in the early 20th century. Haydite or shale mining had an impact near the South Park archeological site in Independence.

Papermaking was the dominant turn-of-the-century industry in the valley with two large manufacturing plants: the Akron-Cleveland Bag Company in Boston and the Jaite Company in Brecksville Township. Both of these industrial concerns played active roles in housing the workers. The town of Jaite was built by the company to house and service the workers and managers. The town originally consisted of four single-family houses, five two-family houses, and a combination company store/post office.

In 1900, the Akron Bag Company opened on a 55-acre site located west of the river dam in Boston. The population changed dramatically as Polish immigrants from Cleveland moved into Boston to work in the mill. 1902 tax records indicate the company had acquired 145 acres and had built six company houses that ran parallel to the east side of the river, and two duplex houses on the west side of the river and east of Riverview Road. The workers built other new houses themselves. The bag company also built a large frame general store in 1905. The plant is no longer extant.

### Methodology and Study Area

The Schedules of Industry census records provide a wealth of information on the industrial heritage of the valley. These records should be tabulated and averaged by industrial classification, similar to what has been done with the agricultural records, to determine a profile of 19th century industry in the valley.

Figure 24. U.S. Census, Industrial Schedule, Boston Township, 1850

An attempt should be made to map these industries using owner names, business directories and land ownership maps. In addition to this information having merit in its own right, it could be collaborated with the agricultural census information to create an economic model.

The milling industries lined many of the 19th century waterways in the valley, as shown on maps from the period. Although all but one of these mills is gone, evidence of their existence may be found in the landscape, such as landforms that testify to the presence of millraces. Another industry that left its mark on the land is quarrying--most notably the sandstone steps at Deep Lock Quarry just south of Peninsula. Remaining evidence of boat building operations in the landscapes of Boston and Peninsula is not as readily apparent. The impact these industries, along with distilleries, brickyards, tanneries, etc., had on the landscapes needs further analysis and survey documentation.

In order to determine the cultural landscape characteristics of remnant industrial sites, the layout of these manufacturing operations must be understood. Historic photographs, drawings, and primary and secondary source materials need to be consulted to understand how a site operated or how a typical site associated with an industry would use the land. In addition, identifying and inventorying these sites is needed to develop an understanding of what features are needed to communicate their

historic associations. Potentially significant cultural landscapes associated with industry can be found throughout the recreation area. The valley's transportation corridors, (the railroad line, river, canal, tributaries, and major roads) are likely to have more industrial sites than other areas of the park.

Figure 25. Contributing Property Tracts CVNRA, Theme: Industry

## RECREATION

Throughout the history of the Cuyahoga Valley, and despite the presence of the Ohio Canal, and later, the Valley Railway, the Cuyahoga Valley remained largely underdeveloped. In 1925 the Olmsted Brothers' *Report on a Park System for Summit County, Ohio* noted the "wealth of beautiful scenery" in Summit County, particularly "the wonderful and impressive landscape of the Cuyahoga valley north of Akron. Their consideration of the valley's park potential referenced "The dominance of this topographic feature and its great and impressive beauty . . . and to save that scenery for all time for the benefit and enjoyment of the people -- not only of Summit County but of communities much farther afield -- would be an accomplishment justifying unusual effort and worthy of great praise."

As the nation industrialized in the nineteenth century, open space-- for the first time in American history-- began to be viewed as a valuable commodity. The location of the Cuyahoga Valley, lying directly between Akron and Cleveland, afforded both cities the opportunity to set aside open space for park development. Recreation soon became one of the dominant land uses in the Cuyahoga Valley.

Figure 26. Akron Metropolitan Park District and Proposed Cuyahoga County Park and Boulevard System, June 1916, superimposed on CVNRA boundary

The 19th century transcendentalist believed in the value of nature and advocated green space as a remedy for the ills of urban industrialized life. The parkways system made the rural areas more accessible and provided corridors of green in the urban environment. Boston's Emerald Necklace (Cleveland's ideal) offered all citizens the opportunity to enjoy, as Olmsted stated "the best scenery of the region," as well as connecting the "heart of the city with new suburbs and outlying farmland and integrated parks and parkways with a streetcar line and storm drainage."<sup>29</sup>

In the valley, the federal relief projects evidenced the influence of the recreational facilities on the 1930's naturalistic picturesque environment, something which, twenty years earlier, the Olmsted Brothers had specifically deemed inappropriate. By this time, recreation came to stand for all age groups, not just children in the playgrounds.<sup>30</sup> Active recreation was no longer frowned upon.

Swimming pools, initially provided for public health reasons, had become the most popular of all

<sup>29</sup> Anne Whiston Spirn, "Urban Parks" *ALA*, 206.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 15.

recreational facilities. Within the Cuyahoga Valley, the public work projects of this period included manmade lakes for both swimming and ice skating at Akron's Virginia Kendall and Furnace Run parks. Tobogganing was also offered at Kendall Lake. In addition to the swimming areas, bathhouses were constructed with Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor at both Kendall Lake and Furnace Run. The CCC design philosophy stressed buildings and structures that were subservient to, or at least in harmony with, the natural surroundings. These buildings and structures encouraged active recreation as an appropriate form of enjoying the natural beauty of the valley.

#### Figure 27. Kendall Lake Bathhouse Construction

The federal relief park development projects in the Cuyahoga Valley, like many similar projects throughout the country, helped realize the recreation potential of scenic areas in such a manner that stressed good conservation. The permanent park improvements made by the CCC, and other Depression-era Federal work programs represent the logical progression of local land use trends and the evolution of society's concepts about outdoor recreation and the use of secondary growth woodland areas.

#### Methodology and Study Area

The 1995 *Recreation and Conservation Resources of Cuyahoga Valley Multiple Property Documentation Form* provides an extensive context for this subject matter. In addition, the Property Types and Registration Requirements section of this nomination define historic integrity requirements for resources associated with this theme. This document is based on an extensive survey of area park development and has been entered into the Ohio Historic Inventory database, maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office. Areas identified in this survey need to have a Level I CLI prior to additional assessment and treatment recommendations.

In 1994, the Midwest Regional Office Historical Landscape Architect, conducted a Cultural Landscape Inventory. This information includes an overview of historical information, status of documentation, management history, analysis and evaluation, and list of component landscapes, integrity assessment, and determination of probable contributing and noncontributing status. This documentation will serve as a foundation for a Cultural Landscape Report for the resource.

What is lacking from existing documentation is a treatment recommendation and record of treatment--two essential components of a Cultural Landscape Report. Director's Order #28 defines *Treatment* as recommendations based on site history, existing conditions, and analysis; enabling legislation; applicable standards; and the proposed use as defined in planning documents. The *Record of Treatment* documents the actual treatment and includes narratives that outline the course of work, conditions encountered and materials used.<sup>31</sup>

A more in-depth analysis of the planting record, maintenance, and expansion of Virginia Kendall is

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<sup>31</sup> See "A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques" for accepted CLR standards.

needed to better determine the appropriate treatment for this approximately 500 acre designed, National Register listed landscape.<sup>32</sup> As the premier historic designed landscape of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Virginia Kendall State Park Historic District represents the naturalistic design standards that serve as the philosophical basis of the National Park Service's resource stewardship ethic. Section 106 compliance actions and the park-mowing plan drive current treatment of this resource. In order to preserve the historic integrity, a cultural landscape report with treatment plans grounded in the historical and cultural significance of the resource needs to be prepared.

Figure 28. Contributing property tracts CVNRA, Theme: Recreation

## CONCLUSIONS

This preface or introductory overview of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area cultural landscapes serves as an orientation to the resource base. The methodologies for the themes are guides to the full development of historic contexts and landscape resource assessments. Developed context statements for each theme will provide the evaluative framework for the significance assessment, which will determine the landscape elements needing specific treatments and ongoing stewardship.

Each theme will be treated as its own research document. The transportation theme will be divided into three separate documents, given the strong emphasis of this theme in park interpretation and programming. Each document will determine the National Register significance of resources associated with these historic themes. The sequence of development will be determined by a number of factors. These include management priorities, threats to the resource base, and available qualified staff. The completion and accumulation of these seven documents will provide an understanding of the resources and the links between them that will facilitate a more holistic management of this complex landscape.

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<sup>32</sup> The Metro Parks Serving Summit County has hundreds of original construction photographs of the CCC project at Virginia Kendall that are not labeled. The Summit County Historical Society Archives has twelve un-indexed boxes of files on the CCC project at Virginia Kendall. Although these files were accessed for the National Register nomination, the extensive nature of this collection strongly suggest a need for further analysis.

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